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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops at the KÖNIGSBRUECK Troop Training Grounds

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EVALUATION See below

DATE OF CONTENT See below

TE PREPARED 17 November 1949

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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30 September to 3 October 1949

1. a. Large Soviet maneuvers were conducted in the KÖNIGSBRUECK (N 52/A 31) area, starting about 20 September 1949, as was learned between 30 September and 3 October 1949. Tank reconnaissance, infantry, AAA, signal and medical units were engaged in the maneuvers, which were under simulated war conditions. The maneuvers ended between 1 and 3 October 1949, with air units from the GROSSENHAIN (N 52/A 01) airfield participating at that time. +

b. Motorized units with tanks (with 24-inch track), armored reconnaissance cars, heavily armored personnel carriers, field guns, AA guns and trucks on either side of the GOTTSCHEIDT (N 52/A 31) - BERNSDORF (N 52/A 42) railroad line. The vehicles were dug in, having splinterproof cover and excellent camouflage. Only the turrets of the tanks projected above the surface. The tanks had guns of about 88 mm caliber and were said to weigh 60 tons each. The observed armored reconnaissance cars were new and apparently of modern design. They were extraordinarily small, had angular armor, and were armed with air-cooled twin-barreled machine guns of about 12 mm caliber. The armored personnel carriers were also apparently of modern design. They had about 14-inch wide caterpillar tracks and were armed with a 50-mm gun. The trucks were of various makes, mostly old design. Signal trucks and supply trucks were observed in addition to troop-carrying trucks.

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+) were observed

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date 2003/08/05

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

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d. About 20 single-engine fighter or ground attack aircraft were observed flying in close formation at medium speed and altitude above the maneuver area.

5 October 1949

2. a. The troops engaged in the Fall maneuvers at the KORNIG-BUECH troop training grounds totaled 20,000 to 30,000. The tank units taking part in the maneuvers were located in the northern section of the troop training grounds, primarily in the REITZSCH - ZEISKULZ (N 52/A 22) area.

b. A train carrying a motorized infantry unit was observed at the KORNIG-BUECH railroad station, ready to leave in the direction of DRESDEN (N 52/A 23).

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c. Local residents stated that the old cantonment north of KORNIG-BUECH was permanently occupied by about 5,000 troops. Units in about battalion strength were quartered in the kaserne near the railroad station.

19 October 1949

3. a. Artillery ammunition was entrained at the KORNIG-BUECH railroad station between 9 a.m. and noon.

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20 October 1949

b. Twenty-one tanks with their crews were detrained at the SCHNEPPITZ railroad station at about 9 a.m. The tanks left for the troop training grounds.

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Comment:

An east and a northwest section can be distinguished at the KORNIG-BUECH troop training grounds. The eastern section extends from the KORNIG-BUECH-HOYERSWERDA (N 52/A 53) highway as far as RABENZ, including SCHNEPPITZ (N 52/A 32). Besides SCHNEPPITZ, the following localities are included: BRAUNA (N 52/A 41), PETERHAIN (N 52/A 31), LIEBENAU (N 52/A 31), KEULICH (N 52/A 31), ROITZSCH (N 52/A 31), WEISS-BACH (N 52/A 31), SCHNEIDAU (N 52/A 31) and GOTTSCHEIDT (N 52/A 31).

The KORNIG-BUECH - SCHNEPPITZ section of the mentioned highway has been blocked to all traffic for more than a year. The northwest section extends from the mentioned highway as far as LIPSA (N 52/A 22) - LUETICHAU (N 52/A 22) - TAUMORA (N 52/A 21) - RADEBURG (N 52/A 10).

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It is in this section where most maneuvers, particularly exercises with live ammunition, take place. This area, about 5,250 acres in size, is surrounded by a board fence. Practicing units are quartered in cantonment buildings located here. When troops moved through localities bordering on the troop training grounds, such as LAMMIZ, entire streets were blocked to outside view by board walls.

25X1 [] Comment:

a. KONIGSDAUECK Troop Training Grounds

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The dimensions of the training grounds as stated [] do not agree with previous information. The grounds are believed to cover only an area as indicated on Annex to a previous report 0. The area, which allegedly extends to the east as far as LAMMIZ, north as far as LIPSA and west as far as RADEBURG, is considered only a temporary maneuver area for the large-scale final maneuvers conducted in late September and early October 1949.

b. Large-Scale Maneuvers in the KONIGSDAUECK Area

The maneuvers conducted between 20 September and 3 October 1949 are considered to have been the final field exercises of a component unit of the First SS Panzer Army, []

25X1 [] Similar final maneuvers were observed in other army areas at the same time.

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